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PATENT

PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 -34 (Cancelled)

35. (Allowed) A method for a communication system, comprising:

determining an available number of fingers in a receiver of said communication system, based on at least one of:

- a) lock or unlock condition of said fingers,
- b) a time period of lock or unlock condition of said fingers,
- c) a combine or un-combine condition of said fingers,
- d) a time period of combine or un-combine condition of said fingers, and
- e) an assign or un-assign condition of said fingers;

adjusting a pilot signal energy search window threshold based on said available number of fingers, thereby allowing availability of a different number of fingers for processing received signals by changing condition of one of said fingers as determined in at least one of (a)-(e).

36. (Allowed) The method as recited in claim 35 further comprising:

accepting or denying processing of a received signal based on whether a correlation energy of a received pilot signal meets said adjusted pilot signal energy search window threshold, wherein said received signal is associated with said pilot signal.

37. (Allowed) The method as recited in claim 35 further comprising:

determining at least one of Active set, Candidate set, and Neighbor set of base stations in said communication system, wherein each set identifies at least one base station for communication with a mobile station in said communication system, wherein said Active set identifies at least one base station assigned for communication with said mobile station, wherein said Candidate set identifies at least one station with sufficient